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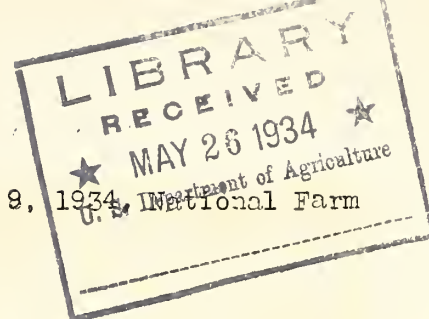
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APRIL WEATHER

By J. B. Kincer, Weather Bureau, Wednesday, May 9, 1934, 12:00 P.M.
and Home Hour.

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How do you do, folks:

Since our last talk with you about a month ago, the question of weather has become a very important one over large areas of the country. This is because a serious drought has developed over much of the interior, especially in the Northwestern States.

April weather was comparatively warm and decidedly dry. Temperatures were seasonal over the eastern half of the United States, but abnormal warmth prevailed over the western half. The line of freezing did not extend as far south as usual in this month, and some previous high temperature records were equalled or broken at a few stations in the central-northern districts, the Pacific Northwest, and the far Southwest.

The month was decidedly dry, except in a few small areas. The greatest deficiencies in precipitation occurred in the far Southwest, the central valleys, and the Great Plains; considerable portions of the Ohio Valley had less than half the normal, and large areas of the Plains had less than one fourth the usual amount for this month. Some stations in eastern South Dakota had no measurable rain during the entire month. As a result of the extreme dryness over the Great Plains, high winds caused frequent and severe dust storms, some of the dust carrying well into the Eastern States.

In the interior valleys, the central plains, and the Northwest relief from droughty conditions has been afforded only in limited areas, and in most of these the rainfall was insufficient to permanently relieve the situation. The most helpful recent showers occurred in some places in eastern South Dakota, locally in eastern Nebraska, and more generally over the eastern half of Kansas and northwestern Missouri. Otherwise, droughty conditions have been intensified by the absence of rain and the prevalence of high temperatures. North of the Ohio River scarcely a station reported a measurable amount of rain during the past week, and in the upper Mississippi Valley sections and the northern Great Plains but few had more than 0.1 of an inch. The extreme dryness is illustrated by the following percentages of normal precipitation from the first of March through the first week in May: North Dakota, 40 per cent; South Dakota, 57; Nebraska, 37; Iowa 43; and Minnesota, 49 per cent. In Illinois there has been only 65 per cent of normal precipitation during the last 11 months, while in Nebraska and North Dakota last month was the third driest April of record.

The Southern States, where soil moisture is mostly sufficient, have had good growing weather in most sections, and farm work made satisfactory progress. Also the Atlantic States, in general, are favorable, with the high temperatures promoting unusually rapid growth. The recent moderate to fairly good rains in the southwestern Winter Wheat Belt have been beneficial in Texas, Oklahoma, and about half of Kansas. In the eastern half of Kansas the moisture was sufficient to improve the wheat crop, but it was inadequate in the western half where wheat continues to go back; in extreme western Kansas much wheat has been damaged beyond recovery. Nebraska has scattered rains which were beneficial locally, but

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wheat continued to lose ground in most places; damage has been heavy. Rains were helpful in northwestern Missouri, but it was too dry in other parts of the State. Wheat lost ground in the drier areas of Illinois and Indiana, and, while it continued in fair condition generally, scattered damage was reported. In Ohio the crop is still fair on lowlands, but increasingly poor on uplands. In the Pacific Northwest recent moisture has been favorable and the general outlook is satisfactory. The Spring Wheat Belt needs moisture badly. In North Dakota early seeded wheat looks well, but rain is needed generally and much of the later sown has not germinated. In South Dakota beneficial rains occurred in many places in the east, but in most of the State moisture is still inadequate, with further soil blowing; seeding is active. In most other parts of the Spring Wheat Belt rain is needed, though, in general, the crop is doing well in the Pacific Northwest. Oats have come up mostly to irregular stands; in Iowa some have not germinated, while early fields are beginning to show yellow because of dryness.

Most of the Corn Belt is too dry. In Iowa seeding made slow progress because of dry soil, and much corn is lying in dust ungerminated; part of the early crop is up and showing rows in a few fields. In Kentucky planting is well along and there is sufficient soil moisture for present needs, but in the northern Ohio Valley States rain is needed for germination of seed. In Ohio some planting has been done in dry soil, and this work is in progress generally in Indiana. In Illinois probably more than half the corn has been put in, but it is too dry for germination in many places, and scarcely any is up. In Missouri planting is well advanced, and some localities have good stands, but others are too dry. In Kansas most fields are planted in the southeastern quarter of the State, and stands are fairly good, with some cultivation; about half the crop has been put in in the northeast. Farther north seeding is delayed awaiting moisture.

The Cotton Belt has fared better than other sections and conditions, on the whole, are mainly satisfactory. Planting is well advanced. Pastures are getting a slow start in the interior of the country and are mostly poor, with considerable reports of feed shortage.

It is hoped we may have a better story to tell next time.